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UNEMPLOYMENT IN BOSTON; NEIGHBORHOOD PATTERNS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS MAY 1975

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I. SUMMARY

A special survey of unemployment in Boston, carried out in May 1975, throws important new light on the differential impact of the national economic recession on Boston's neighborhoods, and the socio-economic characteristics of the unemployed.

Though the nature of the survey and the method used for estimating unemployment in Boston have serious shortcomings and biases, noted below, the survey results do reveal how the recession impacted the City, the neighborhoods most affected, who the unemployed are, and, by inference, major gaps in the City's strategy and program for economic development, job creation, manpower training, and education.

Also, since the time of the survey, May 1975, the national economy has marginally improved, and unemployment rates for Boston and the metro area are slightly less than they were a year ago, (11 percent and 9 percent, respectively, currently, in comparison with 14 percent and 12 percent, in May 1975), but the portrait of unemployment taken at the depth of the recession has the value of highlighting flaws in Boston's economic strategies.

Culminating a decade of economic revival, the rate of unemployment in the City of Boston, in 1970, had fallen to 4 percent, while that for the Nation as a whole was 5 percent. In Boston, only the inner-city neighborhoods of Roxbury and South End, with unemployment rates of 6 percent, exceeded the national average. By May 1975, East Boston and Jamaica Plain had joined the inner-city neighborhoods of Roxbury and South End as areas of higher-than-city-average unemployment. Hyde Park, South Boston, and Dorchester also also had above-city-average unemployment rates. Unemployment in Boston in May 1975 was predominantly a white, male, young adult phenomena.

The survey, carried out by the Massachusetts Department of Employment Security, and excluding those ineligible for unemployment insurance, showed that unemployment was concentrated in the 26 to 45 year age group, and half of those unemployed in Roxbury and South End were in this age group. But one-third of those unemployed in South Boston and Hyde Park were in the 46 to 64 year age group.

Minorities made up one-fourth of the unemployed in May 1975, approximately equivalent to their population share. Unemployed white workers made up three-fourths

of the total with relatively large concentrations in Jamaica Plain, South Boston, Hyde Park, Dorchester, and Roslindale.

Males, comprising 55 percent of the labor force, made up 61 percent of the unemployed. Male unemployment was concentrated in Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, South Boston, and Roxbury.

Boston's public investment strategy and development program, focused on neighborhood revitalization and downtown development, is a good program which has done much to revive the City's economy and revitalize the City as a place to live, but it is not attuned to coping with the kind of unemployment which emerged last year. In effect, rising unemployment flowing from the national recession impacted particularly, (1) inner city neighborhoods where much had been done, but not enough, and (2) older, ethnic neighborhoods which had largely been bypassed by the Great Society programs of the 1960s, with relatively little participation in the new kinds of jobs emerging in the City's expanding economy.

The pattern of unemployment in Boston in May 1975, at the height of the national economic recession, highlights the importance of national economic recovery to Boston

as well as the urgency of obtaining more from public investment in terms of:

- job creation,
- income generation,
- private investment stimulation,
- tax revenue yield, and
- neighborhood impact.

There is the complementary need to translate investment into jobs for Boston residents, if the City is to achieve its goal of raising the resident worker job capture rate from the recent one-out-of-three new jobs created to the targeted one out of each two new jobs. There is the need to examine the jobs implications of public and private investment, in terms of occupations and skills levels. There is the need to dovetail investment programs with manpower training, high school curriculum, and a greater involvement of the private sector in on-the-job training.

II. CITY-WIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

In examining the results of the May 1975 special survey of Boston resident unemployment claimants, it is important to be aware of the distinction between what is known about unemployment rates in Boston and what is estimated, as well as certain shortcomings and biases of the May 1975 survey results and the related analyses.

The "known" information on unemployment rates in Boston is confined to the decennial census of population and labor force conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, representing a full head count of the population, the labor force, and the unemployed labor force. This information revealed, for example, that in the decade of the 1960s, a period of expansive growth in the U.S. economy and economic revival in the City of Boston, the City's unemployment rate (unemployed workers as a percent of the labor force including all those willing and able to work) fell from 5.0 percent, in 1960, to 4.3 percent, in 1970. See Table 1. In the latter year, Boston's unemployment rate was less than that for the Nation as a whole, and 20 percent greater than that for the Boston Metro Area. In 1960, Boston's unemployment rate had been 32 percent greater than that of the Metropolitan Area.

Table 1

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES*

	U.S.[1]	Mass.[1]	Boston Metro[1] Area	Boston City[2] (Estimated)
1960	5.5#	4.2#	3.8#	5.0#
1970	4.9#	4.6#	3.6#	4.3#
1975 Monthly Average	8.5	11.2x	10.6x	12.7x
1975 - Jan.	9.0	10.3	9.3	11.2
Feb.	9.1	11.8	10.9	13.2
March	9.1	12.5	11.5	13.9
April	8.6	12.2	11.1	13.4
May	8.3	12.6	11.6	14.1
June	9.1	13.9	12.8	15.5
July	8.7	13.9	12.7	15.3
August	8.2	13.0	12.9	15.5
Sept.	8.1	12.5	12.6	15.2
Oct.	7.8	12.2	12.1	14.6
Nov.	7.8	11.8	11.4	13.8
Dec.	7.8	11.4	11.0	13.3
1976 - Jan.	8.8	11.2	10.3	13.9
Feb.	8.7	10.6	10.0	12.1
March	8.1	9.8	9.2	11.2

* Unadjusted for seasonal variation.

\# U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1960 & 1970 Censuses of Population

x Adjusted downward in line with national household survey.

1 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Mass Division of Employment Security.

2 Office of Manpower Planning, City of Boston. City of Boston rate was calculated from Boston Metro unemployment rate based on the ratio of the 1970 U.S. Census Report of the unemployment rate in the City (4.3%) to the Metropolitan Area unemployment rate (3.6%). The use of this ratio, by the Office of Manpower Planning, assumes that the unemployment rate in the City is 20 percent higher than that in the Metropolitan Area.

For periods since the last decennial census in 1970, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes estimates for the U.S. economy as a whole based on a monthly sample survey of households, and the Massachusetts Division of Employment Security publishes estimates for the State and the Metropolitan Area based on the number of insured unemployed. These latter estimates are revised downward annually in line with information from the national household survey. The annual unemployment rate for Massachusetts for 1975, for example, was revised downward from 12.4 percent to 11.2 percent, on this basis; (the monthly rates in Table 1 are unrevised):*

For the City of Boston, unemployment rates are estimated by the City's Office of Manpower Planning by adding 20 percent to the estimate for the Metro Area prepared by the State Division of Employment Security. The assumption that the City and the Metro Area economies bear the same relationship as in 1970 may be questioned on a number of counts. Boston's economic structure which has a broader services activity base than the Metro Area, where durable manufactures are

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* See article by Lynn E. Browne and Richard F. Syron, entitled "Unemployment Rates in New England", appearing in Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, New England, New England Economic Indicators, April 1976.

more important, has probably been less vulnerable to the impact of the recession. In 1975, Boston had its largest public and private investment and capital construction ever, while that for the Metro Area was in the doldrums. On the other hand, Boston resident workers may not have been the principal beneficiaries of the City's boom in construction activity in 1975.

In any case, the revision of the 1975 unemployment rates for the Metro area, noted above, reduces Boston's estimated unemployment rate for 1975 from 14.1 to 12.7 percent. As of March, 1976, the Metropolitan Area reported unemployment rate is 9.2 percent, and in accordance with the State Office of Planning method, that for the City is 11 percent.

III. THE MAY 1975 SURVEY OF BOSTON RESIDENT UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMANTS

The zip code area unemployment rates calculated on the basis of the May 1975 special survey of Boston resident unemployment claimants, by the State Division of Employment Security, represent the first systematic, quantitative estimates of neighborhood unemployment rates available since the 1970 census. Though the rates are attuned to the unadjusted City-wide unemployment rate of 14.1 percent, (- coincidentally, both the unadjusted annual average and the rate for May 1975), the downward revision in the City-wide unemployment rate for May 1975 does not obsolesce the results of the survey or the analysis presented in this report which focus principally on the differential rates by neighborhoods.

The May 1975 special survey is a valiant and extraordinarily useful and informative effort, but the shortcomings of the Survey should be noted, however. To calculate unemployment rates by zip code area, Mass. DES took a 20 percent sample of the 30,000 Boston resident unemployment claimants in the weeks of May, 1975, in order to estimate the zip code area distribution of unemployment. Then, to raise these totals to reflect the full universe of unemployment,

including those unemployed who were ineligible for unemployment benefits, the estimates of the zip code area insured unemployed were inflated to the total of 43,303 unemployed in Boston (14.1 percent of the estimated labor force). Zip code area unemployment rates were then calculated by dividing the estimated number of unemployed in May 1975, by the estimated labor force, by zip code area, using the 1970 U.S. Census proportions of the City's labor force applied to estimates of the City labor force total in May 1975.

This reasonable procedure results in several important biases in the estimated unemployment rates for Boston's neighborhoods. Since the estimated City-wide unemployment in 1975 has been revised downward to 12.7%, from 14.1%, all of the neighborhood rates are overestimated by 12 percent. The use of the 1970 labor force distribution means that the unemployment rates in neighborhoods which lost population since 1970 (Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and North Dorchester), are underestimated; conversely, for neighborhoods which gained population since 1970 (Central Area, Back Bay-Beacon Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, Charlestown, and Mattapan) the unemployment rates are exaggerated.

The exclusion of those ineligible for unemployment benefits from the sample distribution suggests that unemployment rates for minorities and teen-agers are grossly underestimated. For 1974, for example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that, in the Boston Metropolitan Area, the unemployment rate for minorities was 50 percent higher than that for the Metro Area labor force as a whole, and the rate for teen-agers was twice as high.*

Finally, of the half of the sampled unemployed who were receiving supplemental and extended benefits beyond the regular claim period entitlement, many are thought to be retirees who have come back into the labor force to take advantage of the supplemental benefit program, and these persons are largely concentrated in the older ethnic neighborhoods, suggesting a possible overestimate of the rate of unemployment in these areas.

IV. UNEMPLOYMENT IN APRIL 1970 AND MAY 1975, NEIGHBORHOOD PATTERNS

Between 1970 and 1975, the neighborhood pattern of unemployment changed. In 1970, following a decade of economic revival, the City's overall unemployment rate

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* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 1974, Report 452, 1976.

of 4 percent was below the 5 percent for the Nation as a whole. High unemployment in Boston, in 1970, was an inner-city phenomena, with unemployment rates in Roxbury and South End at 6 percent. See Table 2 and Map 1. By 1975, South Boston, Hyde Park, East Boston, Jamaica Plain, and Dorchester had joined Roxbury and South End as neighborhoods with higher-than-city average rates of unemployment.

The pervasive impact of the national economic recession on the predominantly white, ethnic working-class neighborhoods of Boston is highlighted in the unemployment rates for the 22 zip code area divisions of the City. See Table 3 and Map 2. In relation to the City-wide average unemployment rate of 14.1%, in May 1975, those zip code areas with rates above 15 percent included North End, Jamaica Plain, East Boston, Codman Square, Uphams Corner, South Boston, and Hyde Park, in addition to Roxbury, South End, and Grove Hall.

V. UNEMPLOYMENT BY AGE GROUP

Unemployment among the insured unemployed was primarily an adult phenomena, with the 26 to 45 year age group making up 37 percent of the total, and the 45 to 64 year age group accounting for 24 percent. See Table 4. Teen-age unemployment, which is at least twice the City average, is not

Table 2

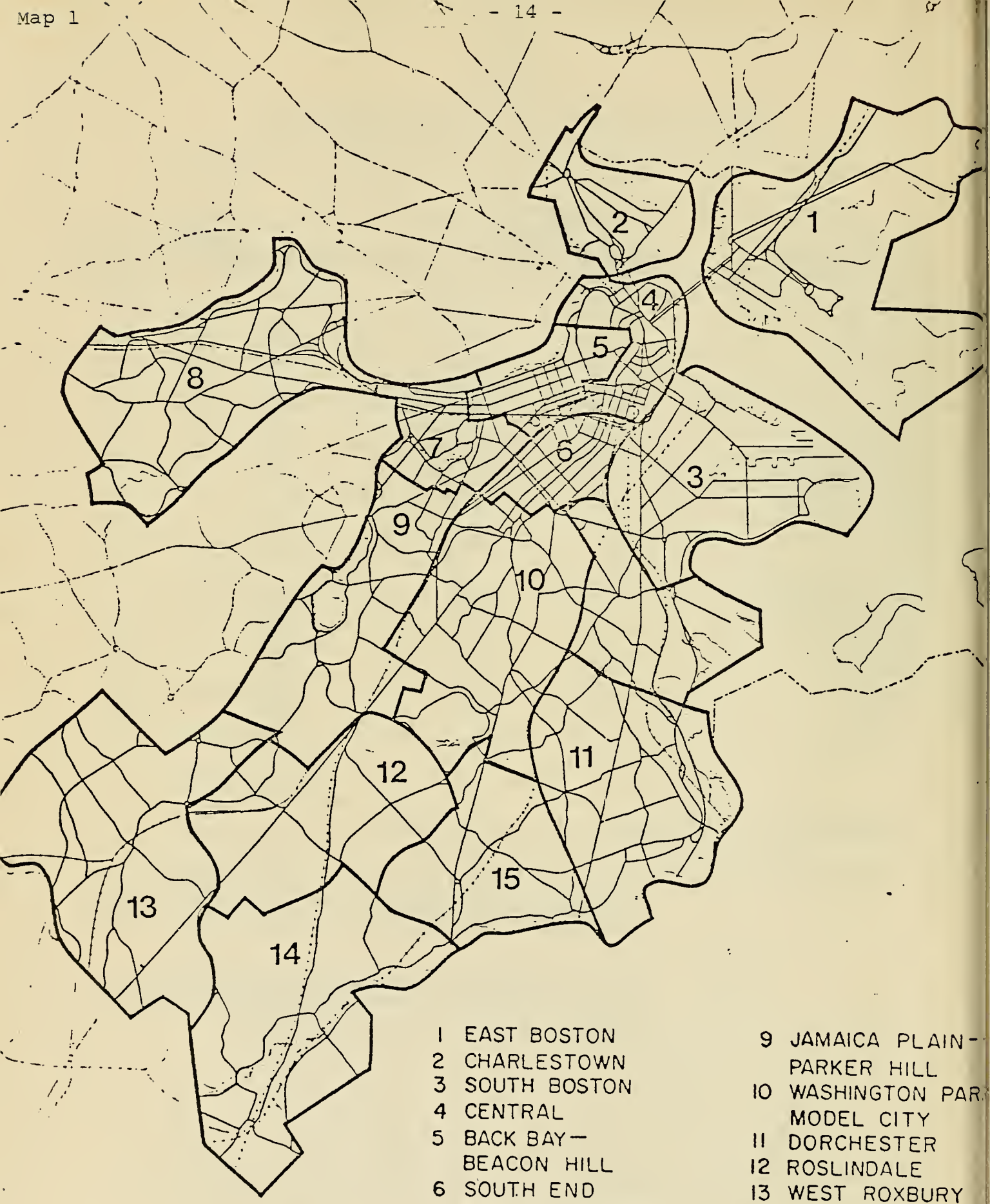
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN BOSTON NEIGHBORHOODS,
APRIL 1970 AND MAY 1975

Boston's Neighborhoods	Unemployment Rates*		Rank	
	April 1970	May 1975	April 1970	May 1975
East Boston	4.7	15.9	7	4
Charlestown	4.9	13.2	6	12
South Boston	5.0	15.6	5	6
Central	5.3	13.9	3	10
Back Bay-Beacon Hill	2.9	10.7	14	15
South End	6.5	17.9	1	1
Fenway-Kenmore	5.1	6.1	4	16
Allston-Brighton	4.2	13.0	9	13
Jamaica Plain - Parker Hill	4.0	16.3	10	3
Roxbury	6.3	17.4	2	2
Dorchester				
North Dorchester	4.6	15.0	8	7
South Dorchester	3.7	14.7	11	8
Mattapan	4.0	13.7	10	11
Roslindale	3.6	14.4	12	9
West Roxbury	2.7	11.7	15	14
Hyde Park	3.5	15.8	13	5
City Total	4.3	14.1		

* Unemployed as a Percent of the Labor Force.

Sources: Col. 1 - U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970 Census of Population and Housing, Fourth Count Summary Tape, Special Tabulation.

Col. 2 - Mass. Department of Employment Security, Special Survey of the Insured Unemployed in Boston, May 1975; See Table 3.



1 EAST BOSTON
2 CHARLESTOWN
3 SOUTH BOSTON
4 CENTRAL
5 BACK BAY—
BEACON HILL
6 SOUTH END
7 FENWAY-KENMORE
8 ALLSTON-BRIGHTON
9 JAMAICA PLAIN-
PARKER HILL
10 WASHINGTON PAR
MODEL CITY
11 DORCHESTER
12 ROSLINDALE
13 WEST ROXBURY
14 HYDE PARK
15 MATTAPAN-FRANK

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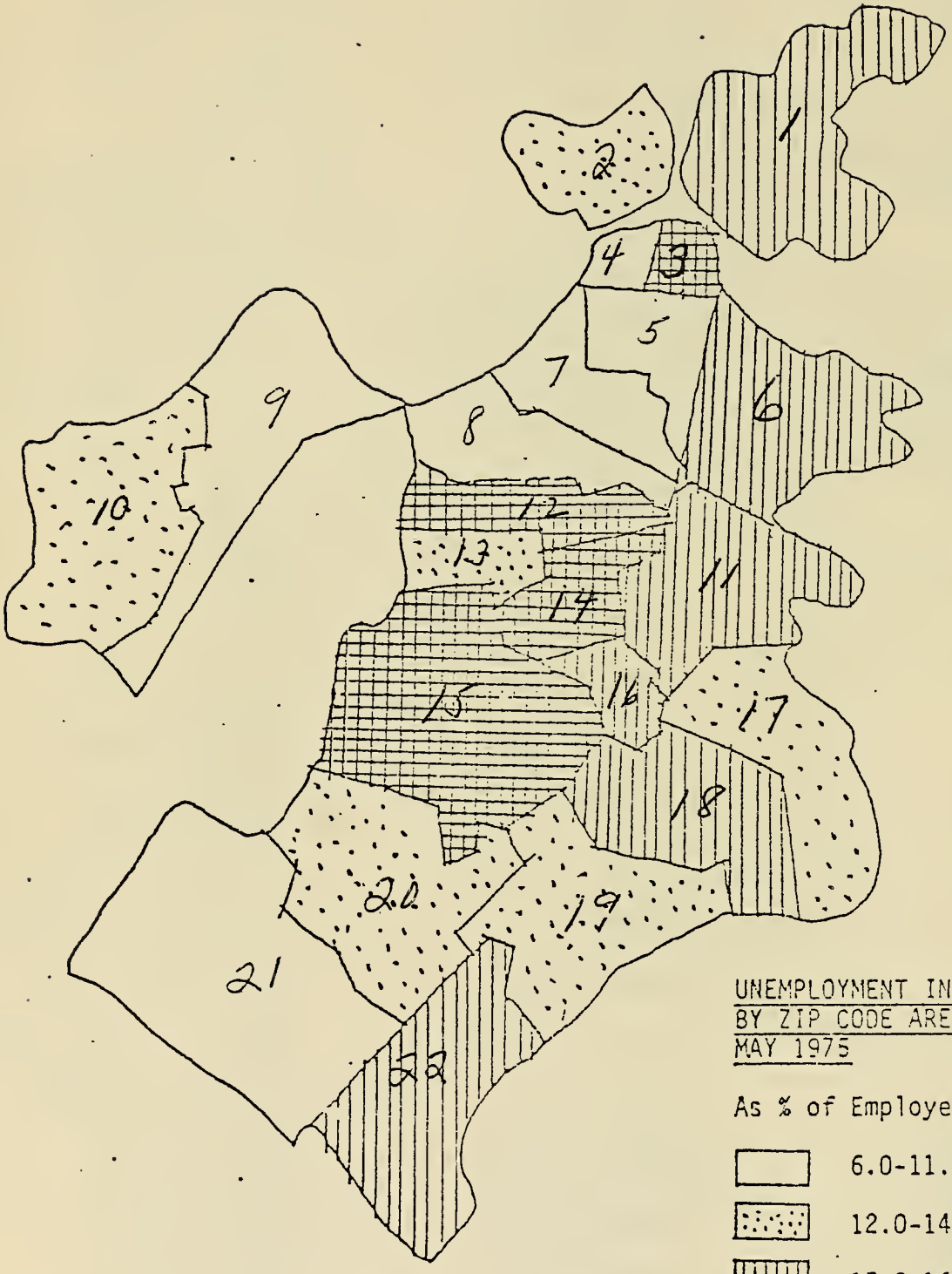
Table 3

UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CITY OF BOSTON BY
ZIP CODE AREAS
MAY 1975

Zip Code	Area	Unemployment Number	Unemployment Rate
	Boston SMSA	148,400	11.6
	City of Boston	43,303	14.1
02108, 02109, 02110, 02111, 02210	Downtown	398	9.1
02113	North End	1,165	22.3
02114	West End	896	11.0
02115, 02215	Back Bay-Kenmore	1,433	6.1
02116	Back Bay	1,191	10.7
02118	South End	1,615	17.9
02119	Roxbury	2,295	19.1
02120	Roxbury Crossing	771	13.8
02121	Grove Hall	2,113	15.8
02122	Fields Corner	1,654	12.6
02124	Codman Square	4,343	15.8
02125	Uphams Corner	2,628	15.0
02126	Mattapan	2,035	13.7
02127	South Boston	2,741	15.6
02128	East Boston	2,997	15.9
02129	Charlestown	896	13.2
02130	Jamaica Plain	3,551	17.0
02131	Roslindale	2,741	14.4
02132	West Roxbury	1,806	11.7
02134	Allston	1,230	10.4
02135	Brighton	2,460	14.8
02136	Hyde Park	2,343	15.8

Source: Mass. Department of Employment Security, op. cit.

Map 2



Key to Are

1. East Bosto
2. Charlestow
3. North End
4. West End
5. Downtown
6. South Bost
7. Back Bay-Kenmore
8. Back Bay
9. Allston
10. Brighton
11. Uphams Cor
12. South End
13. Roxbury Crossing
14. Roxbury
15. Jamaica Pl
16. Grove Hall
17. Fields Cor
18. Codman Squ
19. Mattapan
20. Roslindale
21. West Roxbu
22. Hyde Park

UNEMPLOYMENT IN BOSTON
BY ZIP CODE AREAS
MAY 1975

As % of Employed

- 6.0-11.9%
- 12.0-14.9%
- 15.0-16.9%
- 17.0-22.9%

Source: MDES

Table 4

AGE COMPOSITION OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN BOSTON, BY NEIGHBORHOOD, MAY 1975

Neighborhoods By Zip Code Area	Total	Age Group					
		16-19	20-25	26-45	45-64	65+	INA*
Downtown	100.0	0.0	6.0	51.0	26.0	17.0	0.0
North End	100.0	0.5	16.0	27.6	34.0	25.0	0.9
West End	100.0	0.0	25.0	45.0	18.0	9.0	3.0
Back Bay	100.0	2.0	23.0	39.0	17.0	19.0	0.0
South End	100.0	0.0	12.0	52.0	26.0	9.0	1.0
Roxbury	100.0	2.0	25.0	44.0	21.0	7.0	1.0
Roxbury Crossing	100.0	3.0	28.0	47.0	12.0	9.0	1.0
Grove Hall	100.0	1.5	22.0	48.0	24.0	4.0	0.5
Fields Corner	100.0	1.0	17.0	31.0	25.0	24.0	2.0
Codman Square	100.0	1.5	24.0	44.0	18.0	12.0	0.5
Uphams Corner	100.0	2.7	20.0	38.0	25.0	14.0	0.3
Mattapan	100.0	1.0	18.0	44.0	19.0	18.0	0.0
South Boston	100.0	3.2	16.0	27.0	32.0	21.0	0.8
East Boston	100.0	0.0	15.0	37.0	28.0	20.0	0.0
Charlestown	100.0	5.0	23.0	25.0	29.0	17.0	1.0
Jamaica Plain	100.0	2.0	21.0	36.0	21.0	19.0	1.0
Roslindale	100.0	2.0	16.0	28.0	25.0	28.0	1.0
West Roxbury	100.0	2.0	10.0	25.0	27.0	36.0	0.0
Allston	100.0	0.0	25.0	27.0	20.5	25.0	2.5
Brighton	100.0	0.5	18.0	25.0	15.0	40.0	1.5
Hyde Park	100.0	1.4	18.0	21.0	32.0	27.0	0.6
City Total	100.0	1.7	19.0	36.7	23.6	18.3	0.6

* Information not available.

Source: Mass. Department of Employment Security, Op. cit.

reflected in the information for the insured unemployed. For the inner city neighborhoods of Roxbury, South End, and Grove Hall, more than 40 percent of the unemployed are in the younger adult age group, 26 to 45. In South Boston, Hyde Park, and the North End, however, one-third of the unemployed are in the older adult age group, 46 to 64.

Of the insured unemployed 26 to 45 years old, the greatest concentrations were in Roxbury, Grove Hall, Codman Square, and Jamaica Plain. See Table 5. The concentrations of the 46 to 64 year old insured unemployed were in South Boston, Hyde Park, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain, and Codman Square.

VI. MINORITY AND WHITE UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment among the insured unemployed in May 1975 affected white workers predominantly, who made up 75 percent of the total. See Table 6. Minorities accounted for one-fourth of the total, equivalent to the minority proportion of the population of Boston. As noted earlier, however, minorities are thought to make up a higher proportion of those unemployed, but ineligible for unemployment benefits.

Table 5

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE UNEMPLOYED IN BOSTON, BY NEIGHBORHOOD, MAY 1975

Boston's Neighborhoods By Zip Code Area	Total	Age Group				
		16-19	20-25	26-45	46-64	65 & Over
Downtown	1.1	0.0	0.4	1.5	1.2	1.0
North End	3.7	1.0	3.1	2.4	5.3	4.9
West End	2.0	0.0	2.6	2.5	1.5	1.0
Back Bay (Kenmore)	3.5	3.8	4.3	3.7	2.5	3.6
Back Bay	3.1	1.0	2.2	4.5	2.9	1.7
South End	4.0	0.0	2.5	5.7	4.4	1.9
Roxbury	7.0	9.6	9.1	8.4	6.1	2.7
Roxbury Crossing	1.9	3.8	2.8	2.4	0.9	0.8
Grove Hall	5.0	2.9	5.7	6.5	4.9	1.2
Fields Corner	3.6	1.9	3.2	3.0	3.7	4.6
Codman Square	11.1	12.5	13.7	13.3	8.4	7.3
Uphams Corner	6.1	10.6	6.2	6.4	6.6	4.6
Mattapan	5.3	3.8	5.1	6.4	4.2	5.3
So. Boston	7.8	14.4	6.7	5.8	10.7	8.8
East Boston	1.2	0.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.3
Charlestown	1.7	4.8	2.0	1.2	2.0	1.6
Jamaica Plain	9.9	13.5	10.8	9.7	8.8	10.4
Roslindale	7.8	5.8	6.6	6.0	8.4	12.2
West Roxbury	4.3	4.8	2.1	3.0	4.9	8.3
Allston	1.5	0.0	2.0	1.1	1.3	2.1
Brighton	2.7	1.0	2.5	1.9	1.7	5.9
Hyde Park	5.9	4.8	5.5	3.4	8.0	8.8
City Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Mass. Department of Employment Security, Op. cit.

Table 6

MINORITY PROPORTION OF THE UNEMPLOYED,
IN BOSTON, BY NEIGHBORHOOD,
MAY 1975

Boston's Neighborhoods By Zip Code Area	Percent Composition		Percent Distribution		
	White	Non-White	Total	White	Non-Whit
Downtown	60	40	1	1	2
North End	99	1	4	5	0
West End	92	8	2	3	1
Back Bay } Kenmore }	84	16	3	4	2
Back Bay	80	20	3	3	2
South End	36	64	4	2	9
Roxbury	27	73	7	3	19
Roxbury Crossing	59	41	2	2	3
Grove Hall	16	84	5	1	15
Fields Corner	91	9	4	4	1
Codman Square	54	46	11	8	18
Uphams Corner	79	22	6	7	5
Mattapan	51	49	5	4	10
South Boston	99	1	8	11	0
East Boston	97	3	0	2	0
Charlestown	100	0	2	2	0
Jamaica Plain	78	22	10	10	8
Roslindale	97	3	8	9	1
West Roxbury	96	4	4	6	1
Allston	88	12	2	2	1
Brighton	93	7	3	3	1
Hyde Park	96	4	6	8	1
Total City	75	25	100	100	100

Source: Mass. Department of Employment Security, Op. cit.

Numbers may not add up to 100 because of rounding.

Among the white insured unemployed in May 1975, the greatest concentrations were in South Boston, Jamaica Plain, Codman Square, Hyde Park, Roslindale, and Uphams Corner.

The minorities insured unemployed were concentrated in Roxbury, Grove Hall, Codman Square, Mattapan, South End, and Jamaica Plain.

VII. MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment, in May 1975, was predominantly a male phenomenon. Males, who make up 55 percent of the City's labor force, accounted for 61 percent of the insured unemployed. See Table 7. Male unemployment was concentrated in Codman Square, Jamaica Plain, Roxbury, South Boston, Uphams Corner, Hyde Park, and Mattapan.

Table 7

SEX COMPOSITION OF THE UNEMPLOYED,
IN BOSTON, BY NEIGHBORHOOD,
MAY 1975

Boston's Neighborhoods By Zip Code Area	Percent Composition		Percent Distribution		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Downtown	43	57	1	1	2
North End	48	53	4	3	5
West End	61	40	2	2	2
Back Bay (Kenmore)	60	40	3	3	9
Back Bay	73	27	3	4	3
South End	60	40	4	4	4
Roxbury	73	27	7	8	5
Roxbury Crossing	76	24	2	2	1
Grove Hall	66	34	4	3	4
Fields Corner	62	38	4	4	3
Codman Square	65	35	11	12	10
Uphams Corner	65	35	6	7	5
Mattapan	63	37	5	6	5
So. Boston	61	39	8	8	8
East Boston	61	39	1	1	1
Charlestown	64	36	2	2	2
Jamaica Plain	59	41	10	10	10
Roslindale	53	47	8	7	9
West Roxbury	52	48	4	4	5
Allston	44	57	2	1	2
Brighton	44	56	3	2	4
Hyde Park	57	43	6	6	6
Total City	61	39	100	100	100

Source: Mass. Department of Employment Security, Op. Cit.

Numbers may not total 100 due to rounding.

VIII. APPENDIX

Zip Code Survey of Boston Resident Unemployment Claimants

During May and June 1975 a special zip code survey of unemployment claimants being paid total unemployment compensation benefits was conducted in the Boston and Jamaica Plain DES offices. The prime purpose of the survey was to develop unemployment estimates for all sections of the City of Boston. Since a large number of persons from outlying sections of the city file claims at offices outside of Boston, an adjustment had to be made to the final survey totals. The percentage of Boston residents filing regular claims for total benefits at each outside office (Chelsea 35 percent, Newton 20 percent, Norwood 15 percent, Quincy 13 percent, Cambridge 5 percent) was utilized in order to inflate the sample. In this way, a more realistic apportionment of unemployment recipients could be assigned to each section of the City. This allocation was most essential for the communities of East Boston and Brighton, whose residents constituted an overwhelming majority of the Boston residents filing at Chelsea and Newton respectively. The sample represented only persons receiving total unemployment compensation benefits but by inflating this sample to cover persons not receiving any form of compensation, an estimate can be developed for total unemployment. It should

be noted, however, that a much larger percentage of black and Spanish-speaking persons are not eligible for unemployment compensation due to inadequate earnings. Thus, a neighborhood like Roxbury or the South End would tend to have a much larger share of persons in total unemployment than projected from this study.

Only the percentage of regular UI claimants collecting total benefits was utilized in developing the unemployment es estimates. Data on the new Federal extensions was not used for the following reasons: (a) information on the place of residence of persons filing at local offices outside of Boston was only recorded for claimants collecting total UI benefits; (b) including FSB (Federal Supplemental Benefits) recipients would distort the true nature of the unemployment composition. While many of these persons can be categorized as long-term unemployed, a good percentage are retirees who have not been in the labor market since 1970. These persons are now eligible to extend their previously exhausted claims but will eventually, once again, filter out of the labor market; and (c) since a much greater percentage of minorities and youths are not eligible for unemployment compensation, the inclusion of FSB recipients and estimates would grossly distort the projections for this significant group. FSB claimants tend to have

characteristics (fewer minorities and older age) diametrically opposed to those of the non-sampled group. Neighborhoods with the largest percentages of FSB claimants were Hyde Park, Charlestown, South Boston, Fields Corner, the North End, and West Roxbury, while those areas with the smallest percentages of FSB recipients included Grove Hall, Roxbury Crossing, the West End, Back Bay, Uphams Corner, and the South End.

The total estimated unemployment for each section of the City is the significant figure to consider, but for purposes of comparison an attempt has been initiated to devise an area unemployment rate. Since there is no way to divide current employment into area components, the only real basis for proportioning neighborhood employment is by utilizing 1970 U.S. Census ratios. The obvious weakness in this approach is the assumption that the same proportions hold true today that held true in 1970.

Consequently, an area with declining population would today most likely have a smaller percentage of city-wide employment and thus a somewhat larger unemployment rate than those indicated. (In an area with a 10 percent unemployment rate, however, an error in employment would only have one-tenth as much impact on the overall unemployment rate as an equivalent mistake in unemployment.)

The four zip code areas of the City with the highest calculated unemployment rates for May 1975 were the North End (22.3 percent), Roxbury (19.1 percent), the South End (17.9 percent), and Jamaica Plain (17.0 percent).

Source: Massachusetts Division of Employment Security, Special Survey of Boston Resident Unemployment Claimants. May 1975.

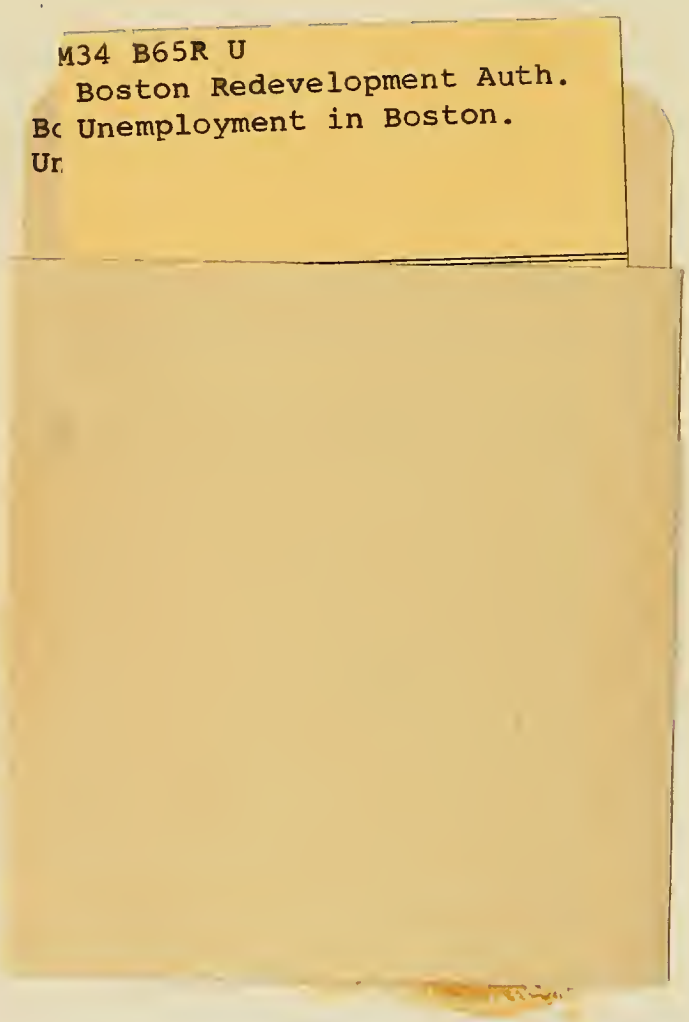

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Table A

DISTRIBUTION OF MASS. DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
20 PERCENT SAMPLE OF INSURED UNEMPLOYED BY
ZIP CODE AREA AND PLANNING DISTRICT

Planning District	Zip Code	Regular Claims	TREX[1]	FSBI[2]	Percent Distribution	Total
1. East Boston	02128	234	11	29	4.1	274
2. Charlestown	29	70	6	55	2.0	131
3. South Boston*	27	214	32	239	7.3	485
4. Central	08 (Beacon Hill**)					
	09					
	10 (Waterfront)	31	9	27	1.0	67
	11 (Chinatown)					
	02210*					
	02113 (North End)	(91)	(19)	(109)	3.3	(219)
	02114 (West End)	(70)	(11)	(38)	1.8	(119)
5. Back Bay**	02116	93	32	60	2.8	185
6. South End	02118	126	34	80	3.6	240
7. Fenway-Kenmore	02115 & 02215	112	28	67	3.1	207
8. Allston-Brighton	02134 & 02135	288	36	102	6.4	426
9. Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill	02120 & 02130	337	103	266	10.6	706
10. Washington Park-Model Cities	02119 & 02121	344	120	251	10.7	715
11A. North Dorchester	02125	205	60	119	5.8	384
11B. So. Dorchester	02122 & 02124	468	121	367	14.4	956
12. Roslindale	02131	214	60	222	7.5	496
13. West Roxbury	02132	141	30	128	4.5	299
14. Hyde Park	02136	183	34	194	6.2	411
15. Mattapan	02126	159	38	140	5.1	337
Total		3,380	784	2,493	100.0	6,657

* 02210-Part of So. Boston
** 02108-Beacon Hill is part of Planning District 5.

1 Extended Period Benefits.
2. Federal Supplemental Benefits.

Source: Massachusetts Division of Employment Security, op. cit.

Table B

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN BOSTON, MAY 1975

Planning District	Estimated Number of Unemployed	Estimated Labor Force	Unemployment Rate	Unemployed Percent Distribution
East Boston	2,997	18,849	15.9	6.9
Charlestown	896	6,788	13.2	2.1
South Boston	2,741	17,571	15.6	6.3
Central*	2,459	17,669	13.9	5.7
Back Bay-Beacon Hill	1,191	11,131	10.7	2.8
South End	1,615	9,022	17.9	3.7
Fenway-Kenmore	1,433	23,492	6.1	3.3
Allston-Brighton	3,690	28,449	13.0	8.5
Jamaica Plain-Parker Hill	4,322	26,475	16.3	10.0
Washington Park-Model City	4,408	25,388	17.4	10.2
North Dorchester	2,628	17,520	15.0	6.1
South Dorchester	5,997	40,773	14.7	13.8
Roslindale	2,741	19,035	14.4	6.3
West Roxbury	1,806	15,436	11.7	4.2
Hyde Park	2,343	14,829	15.8	5.4
Mattapan	2,035	14,854	13.7	4.7
City Total	43,303	307,231	14.1	100.0

* Includes Beacon Hill and part of South Boston.

Source: Mass. Department of Employment Security, op. cit.